Volume 57 Issue 3| March 2023

independence hill
LEADING PEOPLE TO LOVE JESUS AND EXPERIENCE NEW LIFE
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DECLARATIONS

A PUBLICATION OF INDEPENDENCE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH - HUNTERSVILLE, NC

Visit our Website

A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM HOLLY
IHBC YOUTH MINISTER

IHBC Family,

The month of February at IHBC has been full of ideas centered around restoration. How do we restore our priorities, our love for others, and our spirit? We remembered the start of Lent through our Ash Wednesday prayer times and dedicated ourselves to time spent with the Lord as we look towards Easter. We also served together to help give others around the world access to food through Lifeline missions.

We are challenged by the gospel as we go into March to look more like Christ, love more like God, and to recognize the Holy Spirit in our midst. Our challenge ahead is not easy. I am currently finishing a book by Kate Bowler, a professor at Duke Divinity school. In her book, *Everything Happens For A Reason (and other lies I've loved)*, she writes:

What would it mean for Christians to give up that little piece of the American dream that says, "You are limitless"? Everything is not possible. The mighty Kingdom of God is not yet here. What if rich did not have to mean wealthy, and whole did not have to mean healed? What if being people of "the gospel" meant that we are simply people with good news? God is here. We are loved.

It is enough.

What if we shared the gospel: God is here. Jesus has loved you; Jesus is loving you; and nothing can separate you from that love in the future. What if we shared the gospel by working to love in the same radical way? As we look to be hallowed and not hollow in a month to come, may we be reminded and remind others that the Holy Spirit is in us and among us.

PERSONNEL TEAM UPDATE

Welcome back to the pulpit Doug....
For the past three weeks, Doug and his wife, Sunny have enjoyed a well deserved European vacation in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. He will be returning to the pulpit on Sunday, March 5th.

CALLED OUT OF DARKNESS, AND INTO GOD'S MARVELOUS LIGHT

DOUG - IHBC INTERIM PASTOR

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to meet Dr. David Aikman, an award-winning journalist and Christian author. Aikman, having retired from a 23-year career as a TIME Magazine senior correspondent, had recently experienced a hard two-year season in his life, surviving a painful divorce, the total loss of his financial security, and the untimely death of his mother from a terminal illness.

At the same time, Aikman was in the process of publishing his new book, Hope: The Heart's Great Quest. In his exhaustive study on thus theological truth, he concluded that hope is the deepest longing of our heart and the healing source that brings light into our darkest moments of grief and despair. Having recently faced many Job-like events in his own life, Dr. Aikman discovered that hope in Jesus Christ is the "sure and firm anchor of the soul" (Hebrews 6:19).

Today's increasingly secular culture can easily discourage us to think otherwise. It would have us take on a pessimistic attitude regarding devastating natural disasters, the threat of global war, emerging infectious diseases, political intrigue, racial divisiveness, national and global unrest, or legal challenges to the freedom of religion. Is gloom and doom all that we have to offer the world? The Lord has called us "out of darkness into His marvelous light", and this is our time to punch holes in the darkness with the awesome light of Jesus Christ that lives in us!
Despite the current world situation, we must remain faithful and passionate agents of hope to those needing a word of encouragement, peace, and hope.

In a few short weeks, we will have the opportunity to celebrate the gift of everlasting hope we have through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Now is a good time to reinvigorate ourselves in the hope we have in our Risen Lord.

In awe of the Gospel,
Doug

PASTOR SEARCH TEAM UPDATE

The Pastor Search Team met for the first time on Wednesday, February 19th.

The team includes **John Vernon, Sonya McGraw, Charlie Butler, Niki Melton, Polly Mitchell, Melanie Wilson and Sterling Hill.** Pastor Chris serves as Staff Liaison.

Nicky Melton - Recorder

Polly Mitchell - Candidate Communication Coordinator

Sonya McGraw - Chair

John Vernon - Vice Chair

Charlie Butler - Devotion & Prayer Leader

Sterling Hill - TBA

Melanie Wilson - Candidate Communication Coordinator

The team met again on Sunday, February 26th to begin organizing who will serve in what role on the team.

To help us all manage our expectations, remember that this team is now building relational equity and trust among each other. They will be making decisions about HOW decisions will be made, and narrowing the focus on WHAT KIND OF PASTOR they are looking for. The work they do now will set this team up to serve the church well in the long run.

The Deacons, Staff, and Personnel Team continue to be kept in the loop on all Search Team meeting agendas and notes.

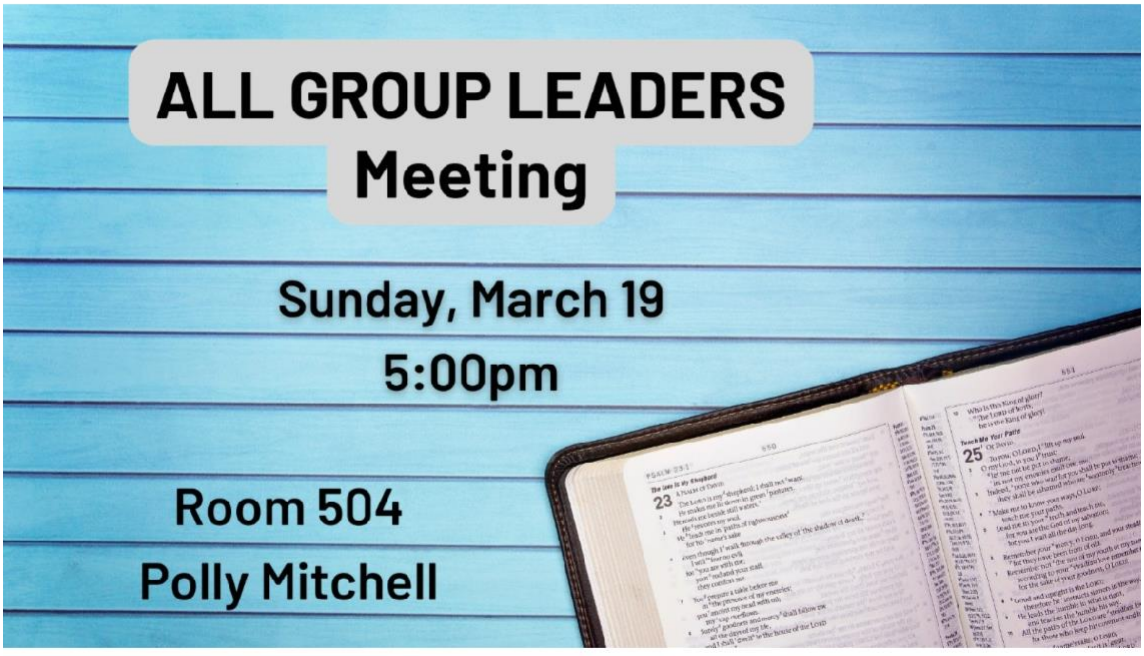
In future Newsletters, eNews and other announcement platforms, someone from the Search Team will give regular update reports to the church.

Please add our search team to your prayers.

THANK YOU for all who served at Lifeline Christian Ministries on the 22nd of February. WOW – over 3000 meals were packed by 49 IHBC family members. A special thanks to our children and youth for their dedication! All age groups were

represented and great fun was had by all. Thank you to our financial sponsors, too!

The Missions team appreciates your financial support and support of our missions partners. We continue to collect pantry items, in the barrel in the main administrative hallway, that are provided to Asbury Methodist pantry for distribution. Your gifts are greatly appreciated.



There will be a meeting for Small Group Bible Study Leaders on Sunday, March 19 from 5:00PM to 6:00PM in Room 504. All who help lead the classes are invited to attend. Please contact Polly Mitchell, Small Group Bible Study

Director, by March 7 if you have an agenda item to be considered for discussion. The agenda will be available on Sunday, March 12.

Our March gathering will be an afternoon of games from 2-4 pm on March 2, with Claudia Thayer providing the games.

Payment for those going to the play at NarroWay on April 15 is due - $43 per ticket.

Each Wednesday, one of our Staff Team will be facilitating the weekly Call-In Prayer Time. Anyone is welcome to call in and participate.

At 7:00am, use the number to call in. This puts you in a group call.
One of our staff will read a brief Scripture and open the time of prayer. You are

welcome to briefly mention prayer requests and you are welcome to pray.

Let's connect Wednesday mornings on the phone.

Hand in Hand

A ministry of IHBC

Come receive encouragement, hope, compassion, and support.
Join us for worship, an inspirational testimony, and
experiencing the presence of God through soaking prayer!
Open to all men and women (12+ years).

Sunday, March 12, 2023 @ 6:30pm

The Chapel at Independence Hill Church

Topic:

Crying Out to God

Presenter:

Niki Melton

Niki is a wife and mother. She is a writer, speaker, small business owner, and accidental mental health and emotional well-being advocate. Amid her walk with God, Niki has encountered struggles and heart-ache—some self-imposed, and others the unfortunate effects of traumatic events and hurts that only God fully knows. But the message she is blessed to carry is that as we walk alongside one another in our faith, our Lord does know. He cares, comforts, renews, restores, and blesses with beauty from ashes!

Connect on Facebook at: facebook.com/hihmeeting

IHBC Prayer Chain

Sign up to get prayer requests and pray for our church and its members!

Join to receive Text or Voicemail notices.

Submit Your Prayer Requests and Praises:

- Call the church office
- Text the church office
- Email the church office
- Fill out a prayer card

Std. Msg & data rates may apply

Join the IHBC Prayer Chain!

Prayer—along with faith—is the foundation of our spiritual life. Through prayer, we connect and have a relationship with God. Through prayer, we bring our requests and petitions to him, and He answers them. Through prayer, we stand against the devil and his schemes and gain the power to overcome. This is why the New Testament emphasizes prayer so much.

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, did not say, "If you pray." He said, "When you pray" (Matthew 6:5). Jesus expected us to pray. It was a given that we, His followers, would pray. In the New Testament, we are also instructed to:

- Pray continually (I Thessalonians 5:17).
- Pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and petitions (Ephesians 6:18).
- Pray for all people (I Timothy 2:1).

We must pray for our church and each other if we want God to work in our lives and in the lives of others. This is why Independence Hill is re-instituting a Prayer Chain. Jesus said, "*If two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven*" (Matthew 18:19). Let's agree together in prayer and watch God answer!

You can receive text or voicemail alerts for prayer requests and praises for our church and our members. When you receive these, just take a minute or two and pray for the need or express thanks for the answered prayer. **To sign up to be part of the IHBC Prayer Chain**, either:

1. Text **Prayer** to 704-596-2124 to receive text notices of prayer requests and praises.
2. Call the church office at 704-596-2124 to request voicemail notices of prayer requests and praises.

We invite you to **submit both your personal prayer requests and your praises to the Prayer Chain** so others can join you in prayer and thanksgiving. To submit:

1. Text your prayer or praise to 704-596-2124.
2. Call the church office at 704-596-2124 and leave your prayer request or praise.
3. Email the church office at carol@independencehill.org with your prayer request or praise.
4. Fill out a prayer request card and put it in the offering plate on Sundays.

You can unsubscribe at anytime by texting **Stop** to 704-596-2124.

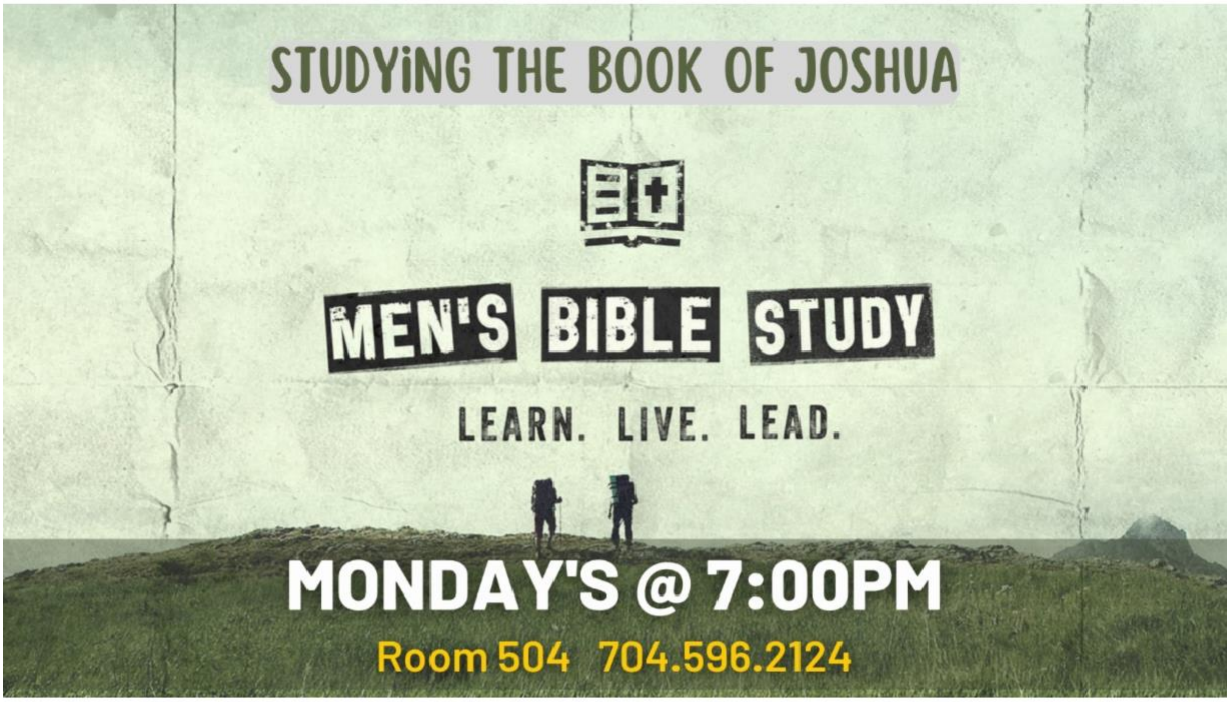
If you struggle with belief in the power of prayer, or if you are just feeling discouraged that your prayers are not being answered, read the book *100 Amazing Answers to Prayer* by William J. Petersen and Randy Petersen. It will encourage you to keep praying!

Wrapped in Love

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY OF IHBC

The Prayer Shawl ladies are busy making hats, shawls and lap blankets.
They are all truly servants for our Lord. I am so thankful for each and every one of them.
Also a reminder that if you or anyone you know needs a shawl or lap blanket please let myself or any member of the group know and we will be glad to help with that request.
You can also get in touch with Carol at the church office and she can also help you. My info is bonner.butchkaren@gmail.com or 704 779-3905.

It is truly a blessing to be a part of this ministry that allows us to bless and give comfort to those that need it. Thanks for supporting us.
Love from all the prayer shawl ladies.



MEN'S MARCH 2023 BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

MARCH 6, 13, 20 MEET AT 7 PM IN ROOM 504
TO STUDY THE BOOK OF JOSHUA.

March 27th MEET AT 6:00 PM AT EAST COAST WINGS
9711 Northlake Centre Pkwy, Charlotte, NC 28216

STUDY, FELLOWSHIP, LEARN, GROW

Independence Hill
Children's Ministry

Huge thanks to everyone who participated in both the Children's Volunteer Luncheon and the Lifeline Missions project this past month! It is an honor and a privilege to serve alongside so many committed individuals and see how the Spirit of God continues to move in IHBC!

There are not many major updates for the Children's Ministry for the month of March. We will continue our Sunday morning Sunday School and Nursery programs as well as our Wednesday evening "Team Building Activities!" ***The only exception is that there will be no T.B.A. on Wednesday, March 22nd.***

On Sunday mornings, the children will be learning about the theme of restoration though a four-week Bible study called "Work in Progress: Redo, Rewrite, Restore." The series is described in the following way: "Our relationship with others are always a work in progress. But we can rewrite the story when we choose to forgive, and decide that someone who has wronged us doesn't have to pay."

On Wednesday evenings, the children are continuing to learn about different spiritual disciplines and how things that seem difficult in the moment can often help us grow the most in the long run! So far, we have discussed the disciplines of meditation, fasting, study, service, submission, solitude, celebration, and guidance. Still to come are prayer, simplicity, confession, and worship!

Feel free to join us and see what we're all about!

In truth and love, Matt
matt@independencehill.org

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY PROGRAMS

Sunday Mornings

- *Sunday School provided for children ages birth - 5th grade (9:00-9:45 a.m.)*
- *Nursery provided for children 3 years old and under during the 10:00 a.m. worship service*

Wednesday Evenings

- *Meal, games, and Bible study provided for children ages kindergarten – 5th grade (6:30-7:30 p.m.)*

Find out more and/or join our team at https://www.independencehill.org/i-kids

Sunday March 5th - Fundraiser dinner - please arrive by 3:30 to help prep.
March 25th - Escape room event (please let Holly know asap if planning on attending
March 31st - April 1st - D-now event at First Baptist Church Huntersville

Enrollment in our Weekday Preschool, Fall 2023 has started. Space is limited. You can enroll and pay online

Independence Hill
WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL

HERE: https://independencehillchurch.wufoo.com/forms/weekday-preschool-application-for-enrollment/ or call the Preschool at (704) 596-2124 or email the Directors rebekah@independencehill.org or jenny@independencehill.org

FINANCIALS:

January	**Actual**	**Budget**
Revenues	$29,077	$52,416
Expenses	$38,388	$52,416
	$(9,312)	$ -
Year-to-Date		
Revenues	$170,355	$209,665
Expense	$163,940	$209,665
	$6,416	$ -

DESIGNATED FUND GIVING

$	100	International Missions/Lottie Moon
$	80	St. Peter's Soup Kitchen
$	270	Youth Ministry
$	100	Weekday Preschool Fund
$	550	Nicaragua Missions
$	205	Missions Fund

A donation was made to **Children's Ministry** in memory of **Patricia Siniard** by Lane & Donna Seaford.

A donation was made to the **Missions Fund** in memory of **Ann Eudy** by Mac & Cindy Young.

January

Average Sunday School Attendance	95
Average 10:00 am Worship Attendance 1	10

March Birthdays

3/3 – Jay McGraw
3/5 – Jace Beck
3/10 – Bonnie Turner
3/12 – Audrey Peterson
3/13 – David Kelley
3/17 – Savannah Benfield
3/19 – Jennifer Beck
3/20 – Terry Wray
3/25 – Colton Carnes
3/30 – Theresa Lusk

March Anniversaries

3/1 – Wayne & Kathy Auten, Kevin & Carol Wilburn
3/15 – Dan & Comfort Ngwayah
3/23 – Gerry & Dena Benfield
3/27 – Matt & Erin Young
3/29 – Frank & Vickie Meyers

IHBC Prayer List – Updated February 23, 2023

Items in bold indicate updates to the list. ***Please help us keep this list current*** by informing the office of changes.

Church Family

Health Concerns:

Kathy Auten.....Neck pain, arthritis
Laura Bedingfield.....Had cortisone shot for back pain due to four bulging discs
Karen Bonner .....Ongoing health concerns
Chris Cook.....Colon cancer patient undergoing treatment
Harold & Linda Covington .Ongoing health concerns
Junie & Silas Davis .....At home and recovering after recent hospitalizations & surgery; Silas will have rehab
Linette Davis .....In rehab to gain strength after recent hospital stay
Rick & Susie Davis .....Ongoing health concerns; continue to pray for no side effects from Susie's cancer meds
Helena & Roger Maynard ...Ongoing health concerns
Jean Norton.....Having a difficult recovery from hand surgery; battling infection
Mary Penninger .....Recovering from surgery
Phyllis Stallings.....Has been battling vertigo
Brenda Stewart.....Recovering from knee surgeries and complications
Sandy Tilley.....Recovering from a fall; Praise for no broken bones or head trauma
Sandra Turner.....Health concerns
Janet Tyson.....Ongoing health concerns
Jackie Williams.....Ongoing health concerns
Ed Winter .....Back pain

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Todd & Tanya Marlin on the birth of their granddaughter, Dawson Avery Darby, on February 13, 2023. She is the daughter of Jade & Robert, niece of Hope & Carter, great-granddaughter of Dan & Ilah Williams.

Expecting:

Laura Kendall .....Baby due in April

Church Needs:

Volunteers are needed for the Nursery on Sunday morning
Pray for our Pastor Search Team, our staff and congregation in this time of transition

Praises:

IHBC Weekday Preschool has hired all open positions and is now fully staffed

Church Missions:

Nicaragua, Caterpillar Ministries, David Cox Road Elementary, Grace Church, Sent Church

Serving Our Country:

Carson Poell (Air Force)
Karson Smith (Air Force) – Polly Mitchell's grandson
Others Dear to our Church Members: Hunter Hiers (Wayne Auten's son's friend); Dylan Breton, Navy (Nancy Ferrell's grandson);
Pray for the safety of our armed forces, for the families of those lost, and for all elected officials.

Long-Term Care Residents:

Eddie Davis (Cadence), Cecil Riddle (The Laurels)

March 2023

Independence Hill Baptist Church

SUNDAYS
10:00am Worship (Worship Ctr)
Check the IHBC Group Facebook page for streaming worship services as well as the latest announcements. Worship may also be viewed on IHBC's Youtube Channel.

BIBLE STUDIES
Sunshine 9:00am Sundays in the Chapel
Nancy Jane Davis 1:00pm Wednesdays in Room 504A
C.P. Kelley 9:00am Sundays in Chris' office
Sonseekers 9:00am Sundays in Room 504B
Builders & Believers 9:00am Sundays in Room 504A
Good News 9:00am Sundays in FLC Hall Classroom
Impact 9:00am Sundays in Old Library
Collide 9:00am Sundays in Youth Building
Children 9:00am Sundays in Children's Wing
Real Talk Midweek 10:00am Wednesdays in FLC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00am Together in Prayer Chris 3:00pm Prayer Team Meets 6:30pm Collide Student Ministry until 8:00pm 6:30pm K-5th in gym until 7:30pm 6:30pm Rehearsal until 8:00pm 6:30pm Women's Bible Study until 7:30pm (504)	**2** 9:30am Women's Bible Study until 11:00am (504 2:00pm J.O.Y. until 4:00pm (504)	**3**	**4**
5 Carvers in Impact Class	**6** 7:00pm Men's Fraternity until 8:30pm	**7** 4:00pm ZOOM Nominating Mtng.	**8** 7:00am Together in Prayer Holly 3:00pm Prayer Team Meets 6:30pm Collide Student Ministry until 8:00pm 6:30pm K-5th in gym until 7:30pm 6:30pm Women's Bible Study until 7:30pm (504)	**9** 9:30am Women's Bible Study until 11:00am (504	**10**	**11**
12 1:30pm HHR Worship until 2:00pm 5:00pm Youth Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner until 6:30pm 6:30pm Hand in Hand Service (Chapel)	**13** 6:00pm Missions Meeting 7:00pm Men's Fraternity until 8:30pm	**14** 10:00am Prayer Shawl	**15** 7:00am Together in Prayer Matt 3:00pm Prayer Team Meets 6:30pm Collide Student Ministry until 8:00pm 6:30pm K-5th in gym until 7:30pm 6:30pm Rehearsal until 8:00pm 6:30pm Women's Bible Study until 7:30pm (504)	**16** 9:30am Women's Bible Study until 11:00am (504	**17** Ladies' Prayer Retreat	**18**
19 4:00pm Deacons 5:00pm Bible Study Leaders Meeting (504) Ladies' Prayer Retreat	**20** 7:00pm Men's Fraternity until 8:30pm	**21** 4:00pm ZOOM Nominating Mtng.	**22** 7:00am Together in Prayer Chris 3:00pm Prayer Team Meets 6:30pm Collide Student Ministry until 8:00pm 6:30pm K-5th in gym until 7:30pm 6:30pm Women's Bible Study until 7:30pm (504)	**23** 9:30am Women's Bible Study until 11:00am (504	**24**	**25** 10:00am Collide to Escape Room until 11:30am
26	**27** 6:00pm Men's Frat. Wing Night	**28** 10:00am Prayer Shawl	**29** 7:00am Together in Prayer Tim 3:00pm Prayer Team Meets 6:30pm Collide Student Ministry until 8:00pm 6:30pm K-5th in gym until 7:30pm 6:30pm Women's Bible Study until 7:30pm (504)	**30** 9:30am Women's Bible Study until 11:00am (504	**31** Collide to D-Now @ FBC-Hsvl.	